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## **HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

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### **Harford County Ready by 21 Task Force Education Session - Tuesday, October 5, 2010 Group Discussion**

What are we doing well at?

- The group identified a large number of existing partnerships and programs available to assist youth

What could be improved upon?

- Concern raised over the possibility that DDA requirements will no longer allow youth who receive a diploma to be eligible for funding and services (only those who obtain a certificate)
- Better use of and attention paid to data
  - Focus in on specific indicators and determine the story behind (i.e. dropout rate, graduation)
  - Determine whether initiatives are effective – what data should we be tracking in order to decide which programs would work best?
  - Need to review the number of youth taking AP courses, passing AP exams, participating in SAT prep courses and how this relates to college preparation - good place to start within schools that are not performing as well
    - Are these programs effective?
  - Need to review data from the Alternative High School
    - Only alternative program in the state that is a school
    - Principal looking for additional resources in the community to support these youth – currently in school improvement (Harford Community College has a representative who visits this school monthly)
  - Data resources:
    - Community College Student Service data
    - College Reaccreditation Process first draft due in January
- Look to other counties performing well such as Carroll County, they have a strong focus on early intervention, school readiness and substance abuse exposed infants – early intervention is a strong strategy particularly for at-risk populations

Do we have communities in Harford County that are better off? Worse off?

- Havre de Grace, Edgewood, Aberdeen and Joppatowne have the highest dropout, highest absence and lowest graduation rates
- Find that enrollment from these schools at Harford Community College is lower than other HCPS schools

Feedback on the taskforce process:

- Process is tedious but informative
- As groups provide data for this process, they should also share their challenges and how they are working to make improvements

Other feedback:

- Race to the Top – need to become aware of what this means to HCPS
- New standards also being placed on community colleges by the government